

Rural District Council of Dartford

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1949

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman : MR. G. W. SMITH.

Vice-Chairman : MRS. E. LANDEN.

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MR. A. ADAMS.	

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health (Part Time).—J. H. HUDSON, B.SC., M.B., M.R.C.S.,
D.T.M. & H., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.—F. SUTCH, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspectors.—J. MARTINDALE, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
C. A. KERSWILL, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Clerk.—MR. D. C. A. BENNIE (General Division).

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF DARTFORD

Annual Report for 1949 of the Medical Officer of Health.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS,

DARTFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the fifty-first Annual Report in conjunction with the Chief Sanitary Inspector on the public health and sanitary conditions in the Dartford Rural District.

The population as estimated by the Registrar General decreased by 260 between mid-1948 and mid-1949. As live births had been in excess of deaths by a similar figure the excess of those who have left over those who have entered the district must be about 500.

The crude birth rate dropped from 17·4 in 1948 to 15·8 in 1949, no doubt due to marriages being later than in the immediate post-war period.

The crude death rate fell from 9·5 in 1948 to 8·9 in 1949. Adjusted for age and sex the rate 9·0 compares favourably with the rate of 11·7 for England and Wales. From the tables it will be seen that almost two-thirds of the deaths were in persons over 65 years of age.

The infant mortality rate of 28 was the lowest recorded with the exception of the year 1935 when the rate was 25. Half the number of infant deaths were associated with the first month of life and were connected with child-birth rather than home environment. The rate compares favourably with the rate of 32 for England and Wales, but, being based on under a score of deaths, it is subject to the influence of chance.

The causes of death show 46 cancer deaths, compared with 60 in 1948. Cancer of the lung was the cause in four men aged over 65 and one woman of 49 years. The number of deaths from tuberculosis decreased from 16 in 1948 to 12 in 1949. Road traffic accidents caused 9 deaths, compared with 3 the previous year. As usual heart diseases were the most common cause of death.

There were 2 deaths from puerperal causes, compared with none in 1948.

Six cases of poliomyelitis were notified, compared with 1 in the previous year. The distribution suggests that the infection came in from the Thameside end of the district. There was one death.

I wish to thank the members of the Public Health Committee for their support and interest and the staff for their co-operation during the year under review.

I am, Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. H. HUDSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

An attempt to give impressions of the social conditions was made last year. Precise figures regarding occupations, family incomes, family size, nutrition, etc., would require a social survey. Some information of this nature will be available from the coming census. In the meantime the only facts available are:—

Unemployment	...	...	...	...	...	...	about 50
Cases dealt with by N.S.P.C.C.	...	...	...	...	...	...	23, involving 74 children

VITAL STATISTICS.

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	34,113
Population (Census 1931)	...	...	...	...	...	...	31,253
Civilian Population mid-1949 (Registrar General's Estimate)	...	...	...	...	...	...	35,890
Number of inhabited houses (rate book 31.3.50)	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,367
Rateable value 1st April, 1949	...	...	...	...	...	...	£216,824
" " " " 1950	...	...	...	...	...	...	£228,836
Sum represented by penny rate 31st March, 1949	...	...	...	...	...	...	£688
" " " " " " 1950	...	...	...	...	...	...	£939

Estimate of Sex and Age Distribution of the Civilian Population at 31st December, 1947 (Registrar General):—

AGE.			MALES.	FEMALES.	PERSONS.	PER 1,000 AT ALL AGES.	
						D.R.D.	E. & W.
All Ages	...	...	17,228	18,432	35,660	1 000	1,000.
0—4	...	...	1,500	1,426	2,926	82	85
5—14	...	...	2,616	2,259	4,875	136	134
15—17	...	...	736	759	1,495	42	} 60
18—19	...	...	234	471	705	20	
20—24	...	...	933	1 295	2,228	63	63
25—34	...	...	2,557	2,803	5,360	150	151
35—44	...	...	2,922	2,953	5,875	165	159
45—54	...	...	2,350	2,470	4,820	135	133
55—64	...	...	1,707	1,955	3,662	103	106
65—74	...	...	1,105	1,328	2,433	68	74
75—84	...	...	505	615	1,120	31	30
85 and over	...	...	63	98	161	5	5

Comparability factor based on the age and sex distribution ... 1.01

The crude death rate of any local area multiplied by its comparability factor makes it comparable with the crude rate for England and Wales and with that for another local area which has been adjusted by its own comparability factor.

The estimated distribution of the estimated population amongst the parishes and the institutional population was given in the previous report.

							MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Live Births.— Legitimate							283	252	535
Illegitimate							15	15	30
							<u>298</u>	<u>267</u>	<u>565</u>

Crude Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated civilian population 15.8

Crude Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated total population,
England and Wales, 1949 16.7

							MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Still Births.— Legitimate							10	4	14
Illegitimate							0	0	0
							<u>10</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>14</u>

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ... 24.2

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, England
and Wales 22.6

							MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Deaths from all causes							170	152	322
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated civilian population ...								8.9	
Death Rate adjusted for age and sex by comparability factor								9.0	
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated total population, England and Wales								11.7	

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.							Rate per 1,000 total ¹ (live and still) births.		
Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis							1	1.73	
Other maternal causes							1	1.73	
							<u>2</u>	<u>3.46</u>	
Death Rate from Puerperal Causes, England and Wales ...								0.98	

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.							MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Legitimate							12	3	15
Illegitimate							0	1	1
							<u>12</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>16</u>

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age.

All infants per 1,000 live births 28.3

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 28.0

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births 33.3

All infants per 1,000 related live births, England and Wales 32

All infants per 1,000 related live births, London and South-
Eastern Region 25

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 46

„ „ Measles 1

„ „ Whooping Cough 1

„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) 3

DEATHS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	3
Posta natal asphyxia and atelectasis	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
Prematurity	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Gastro Enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
Diarrhoea of New Born	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Hæmolytic Disease of new born ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital Malformations of Heart	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Pulmonary Embolism	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Strangulated Hernia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
	7	—	—	1	8	5	—	3	—	16

Former Infant Mortality Rates of Dartford Rural District.

YEAR.	RATE.	YEAR.	RATE.	YEAR.	RATE.
1895	125	1925	66	1938	42
1896	123	1926	56	1939	35
1897	158	1927	71	1940	40
1898	170	1928	47	1941	38
1899	155	1929	69	1942	43
1900	130	1930	68	1943	55
1901	173	1931	55	1944	43
1902	118	1932	68	1945	36
1903	101	1933	54	1946	46
1904	125	1934	51	1947	33
1905	97	1935	25	1948	30
		1936	64	1949	28
		1937	37		

CAUSES OF DEATHS REGISTERED DURING 1949.

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S RETURN.*

	MALE.	FEMALE.
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	—	—
2. Cerebro-spinal fever	—	—
3. Scarlet fever	—	—
4. Whooping cough	1	—
5. Diphtheria	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	6	6
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—
8. Syphilitic diseases	1	1
9. Influenza	—	1
10. Measles	1	—
11. Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis	1	—
12. Acute infectious encephalitis	—	—
13. Cancer of buccal cavity and œsophagus (M) and uterus (F)	1	2
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	6	4
15. Cancer of breast	—	5
16. Cancer of all other sites	17	10
17. Diabetes	1	2
18. Inter-cranial vascular lesions	14	24
19. Heart diseases	57	62
20. Other diseases of circulation system	6	3
21. Bronchitis	11	6
22. Pneumonia	9	—
23. Other respiratory diseases	2	—
24. Ulcer of the stomach or duodenum	3	—
25. Diarrhœa under 2 years	2	1
26. Appendicitis	—	—
27. Other digestive diseases	3	3
28. Nephritis	3	1
29. Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	—	1
30. Other maternal causes	—	1
31. Premature birth	3	—
32. Congenital malformations, birth injury, infant diseases	6	3
33. Suicide	—	—
34. Road traffic accidents	1	2
35. Other violent causes	2	0
36. All other causes	7	14
All causes	170	152

* Classification according to abridged international list of 1938.

**CAUSES OF DEATHS REGISTERED DURING 1949.
COMPILED LOCALLY.***

	All Ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks to 1 year	1-2	2-5	5-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65-75	75+
All Causes	321	8	8	2	2	5	4	7	15	31	44	72	123
Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	12	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	5	1	1	—
Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping cough	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal infection ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Measles	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	4	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	27	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	3	4	11	4
Leukæmia, aleukæmia	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Diabetes	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	40	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	4	8	24
Coronary disease, angina ...	32	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	5	8	11
Hypertension with heart disease	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	2
Other heart disease	83	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	9	14	56
Other circulatory disease ...	6	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	2
Influenza	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia	12	—	3	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	3	1	3
Bronchitis	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	5	6
Other diseases of respiratory system	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	4	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Nephritis and nephrosis ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1
Hyperplasia of prostate ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Congenital malformations ...	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	26	6	1	—	1	2	—	—	1	3	4	4	4
Motor vehicle accidents ...	8	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	1	—	1	2	1
All other accidents	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—
Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suicide	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Classification according to short list from International Classification of 1948.

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Case-rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1949.

	England and Wales	126 County Borough and Great Towns (including London)	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000- 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Adminis- trative County	Dartford Rural District
Births. Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population					
Live births	16.7(a)	18.7	18.0	18.5	15.8
Still births	0.39(a)	0.47	0.40	0.37	0.39
Deaths.					
All causes	11.7(a)	12.5	11.6	12.2	9.0
Typhoid and paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping cough ...	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.03
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.45	0.52	0.42	0.52	0.33
Influenza	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.11	0.03
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	—	—	0.00
Acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis ...	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.03
Pneumonia	0.51	0.56	0.49	0.59	0.25
Notifications (Corrected).					
Typhoid fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid fever ...	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.00
Cerebro-spinal fever ...	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.00
Scarlet fever	1.63	1.72	1.83	1.46	0.64
Whooping cough ...	2.39	2.44	2.39	1.70	2.25
Diphtheria	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.07	0.00
Erysipelas	0.19	0.20	0.19	0.17	0.17
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	8.95	8.91	9.18	8.54	6.50
Pneumonia	0.80	0.91	0.65	0.55	0.28
Acute poliomyelitis ...	0.13	0.13	0.12	0.18	0.14
Acute polioencephalitis ...	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.03
Food poisoning	0.14	0.16	0.14	0.19	0.00
Deaths. Rates per 1,000 Live Births					
All causes under 1 year of age	32(b)	37	30	29	28
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age ...	3.0	3.8	2.4	1.7	5.5
Notifications (Corrected). Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births					
Puerperal fever and pyrexia	6.31	8.14	5.30	6.82	1.7

(a) Rates per 1,000 total population.

(b) Per 1,000 related live births.

TREATMENT SERVICES.

Hospital and Specialist Services.

As a result of the changes of the previous year this district and neighbouring urban and metropolitan populations became served by three major general hospitals, two mental hospitals, one high-grade mental deficiency colony, one infectious disease hospital, one tuberculosis sanatorium and one convalescent eye hospital, all of which are sited in this district or the neighbouring Borough. Specialist services were centred on these hospitals.

Scarcity of beds for the tuberculous and the aged continued during 1949.

At the end of 1948 an outside social worker was appointed to the Dartford Group of Hospitals.

In October 1949 a new wing for the Maternity Block was opened at West Hill Hospital.

General Medical Services.

There are eight general medical practitioners practising in this district and their practices are evenly distributed. In addition the district is served by general medical practitioners from the neighbouring urban areas.

Home Nursing and Home Helps.

The Kent County Council provided the services of 10 Home Nurses and 15 Home Helps.

The Kent County Council also provided an adequate ambulance service.

HEALTH SERVICES.

Vaccination and Immunisation.

Vaccination against smallpox is done by the general medical practitioners. Immunisation against diphtheria is done both by general medical practitioners and by assistant county medical officers at the child welfare clinics and schools. The Kent County Council continued immunisation against whooping cough at the welfare clinics.

Domiciliary Midwifery.

The ten home nurses of the Kent County Council are qualified midwives and continued to attend domiciliary midwifery cases and the antenatal clinics.

Child Welfare.

The 18 fortnightly child welfare clinics were continued by the Kent County Council and also the two day nurseries. Apart from the nursery staff there are four health visitors, the equivalent of two part-time medical officers and seventy voluntary workers for this work.

School Health Service.

The Kent County Council arrange for the inspection of school children four times in their school life and for follow-up examinations for cases of disordered health. There are twenty-four primary and two secondary schools with an attendance of 3,500. There are the equivalent of two school nurses and two part-time medical officers for this work. A fortnightly minor ailment clinic was opened at Swanley during 1949.

During the year the inspection of eight-year-olds was temporarily stopped and dental treatment and eye-glasses became more difficult to obtain.

Laboratory Services.

The following specimens from this office were examined at the County Laboratory:—

Water for bacteriological analysis	...	...	...	...	...	45
Water for chemical analysis	...	...	...	...	...	33
Milk (Special Designations)	...	...	...	...	...	73
Ice cream	...	...	...	...	...	47
Fæces	...	...	...	...	...	3

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

Drought.

From June 6th to January 14th, 1950, water had to be supplied by road to the houses mostly along Clement Street, whose wells had dried up in the drought. The cost of this service was £80 in wages.

The well at Sutton House formed an exception and maintained its supply for its nine dwellings.

Most of the samples reported below as being unfit for drinking were taken from wells while affected by drought.

Action Taken in Respect of Contamination.

At Brickfield Cottages the defective drains of the two dwellings were entirely re-laid. At Sutton House the cesspool was disconnected from the house and, with financial help from this Council, the drainage was extended to the sewer. At Shellbank Farm the unsatisfactory rain water supply was replaced by a pipe supply from a deep well nearby. At West Kingsdown six dwellings previously supplied by rainwater were connected to the main.

Quantity and Quality.

At the end of 1949 the position regarding quantity, quality and means of supply was as follows:—

10,233 houses supplied by Metropolitan Water Board and Mid-Kent Water Co., the parishes supplied being:—

M.W.B.	M.K.W.C.
Darenth.	Ash.
Eynsford.	Fawkham.
Farningham.	Hartley.
Horton Kirby.	Longfield.
Southfleet.	Ridley.
Stone.	West Kingsdown.
Sutton-at-Hone.	
Wilmington.	

Of the above the following rows of cottages were each supplied by standpipe:—

Rabbits Farm	...	8 cottages.	Parish of Horton Kirby.
Burnt House	...	8	" " " Wilmington.
Puddledock	...	6	" " " "
Pedham Court	...	8	" " Eynsford.
Button Street	...	8	" " Farningham.

Apart from poor pressure at Rabbits Farm the supply from these public water mains was abundant.

Samples taken of water going into supply:—

	BACTERIOLOGICAL.	RESULTS.
Sampled by this office ...	9	Good water.
Reports from M.K.W.C.	12	Excellent water.

65 houses supplied by piped supply from well in Lullingstone Park, parish of Lullingstone. Of these the six Park Gate cottages were supplied by standpipe. Quantity satisfactory.

1 Bacteriological sample taken from water going into supply. Result: Good water.

24 houses supplied by piped supply from well at Court Lodge Farm, parish of Horton Kirby. Quantity unsatisfactory during drought.

Samples:—

	BACTERIOLOGICAL.	CHEMICAL.
Passable	5	7
Unfit for drinking	2	0

9 houses supplied by piped supply from one well at Sutton House, Clement Street, parish of Sutton-at-Hone. Quantity satisfactory.

Samples:—

	BACTERIOLOGICAL.	CHEMICAL.
Satisfactory	5	4

17 houses supplied by pump or bucket from adjacent wells. Quantity unsatisfactory.

Samples:—

	BACTERIOLOGICAL.	CHEMICAL.
Passable	13	12
Unfit for drinking	8	8

19 houses supplied by rainwater. Quantity in 1949 negligible.

10,367 Total.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The Council's Engineer has kindly supplied the following information:—

Bean sewerage scheme in the parish of Stone was completed in November. This involved the laying of a mile of 9" sewer and a mile of 6" sewer. These discharge into the existing system and drain into the Council's outfall works at Stone.

Birchwood Road sewer extension in the parish of Wilmington was begun.

68 premises were connected to the Darenth Valley Main Sewer, 55 premises were connected with the Stone sewer.

The automatic electric pump to the low level sewer which lifts the effluent to the disposal works at Stone worked satisfactorily during the year and resulted in an improvement of the effluent discharged from the works.

The following are the results of effluent analysis by the County Analyst: —

DATE.	PARTS PER 100,000.					
	25.1.49	8.6.49	25.7.49	21.9.49	18.11.49	19.12.49
Solids in Suspension ...	3.0	8.7	5.5	5.5	7.0	6.0
Total Solid Residue ...	120	127	174	290	175	141
Chlorine ...	40.5	42.2	62.8	105	57.6	12.0
Free Ammonia ...	6.42	5.96	4.4	4.22	6.0	5.2
Albuminoid Ammonia ...	0.88	1.02	0.40	0.82	0.89	1.0
Nitrogen as Nitrates ...	None	None	None	None*	None	None
Nitrogen as Nitrites ...	None	None	None	None	None	None
Oxygen absorbed, $\frac{1}{4}$ -hour at 26.7°C. ...	2.5	2.5	1.1	2.0	2.2	1.72
Oxygen absorbed, 4 hours at 26.7°C. ...	3.49	3.58	2.14	2.6	3.7	2.95
Dissolved Oxygen absorbed, 5 days ...	18.4	24.0	15.0	14.7	19.9	17.5
pH ...	7.38	7.22	—	7.46	7.71	7.29
Impurity figure ...	61	69	31	54	63	65
H ₂ S ...	—	None	—	Present	None	None

The Port of London Authority took samples of the effluent on the following dates: 24th January, 8th June, 20th September. Analysis of these samples by the P.L.A. showed that H₂S was present in each case due, no doubt, to the discharging of cesspool contents into the public sewers. There would appear to be some difference of opinion regarding the samples taken on the 8th June, the County Analyst reported H₂S not detected, whereas the analysis carried out by the P.L.A. states that H₂S was found to be present.

The practice of discharging cesspool contents into public sewers has been discontinued and more recent samples than those above have been shown to be free from H₂S.

The sewage disposal units which were provided at Hartley, Longfield and Southfleet have worked satisfactorily.

Closet Accommodation.

9 Privies were converted to water carriage systems during the year.

At the end of the year the accommodation was as follows: —

Buildings with W.C.'s discharging into drainage system ...	7,852
" " " " " " septic tanks ...	2,180
" " " " " " cesspools ...	186
Buildings provided with pail closets ...	80
" " " privies ...	69
TOTAL ...	10,367

Smoke Abatement.

The Investigation Committee, appointed as a result of the Conference of Local Authorities and other interested bodies in October, 1947, to consider the nuisance caused by dust from cement works, made its report. Amongst the recommendations accepted by a further Conference in April, 1949, were the following: —

- " 14. It has been suggested that the Registrar General should be asked to provide details of deaths from Cancer of the lung in the nine Local Authorities areas, tabulated by sex and age, during the years 1949-1953 and the standardised mortality ratios worked out from the population figures obtained from the Census of 1951.
15. The Committee recommend the nine Local Authorities in the 'North Kent and Thameside cement dust nuisance area,' consider the matter of pursuing the question and asking the Registrar General if he will undertake the work mentioned in the previous paragraph and provide the necessary information."

Following the acceptance of these recommendations the Registrar General was requested on behalf of this Council to arrange the necessary statistical inquiry. To this he kindly agreed and we are to have the necessary information in 1954.

Rivers and Streams.

In December a complaint was received of pollution in the lower reaches of the river Darent. Three samples were taken from the river in February, 1950, above and below Horton Kirby Paper Mills, and on chemical analysis showed no evidence of paper mill waste and the sample to be fair water for a stream.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

The two privately owned pools open to the public were each sampled once for bacteriological and chemical analysis. The results were satisfactory.

Public Cleansing	} For information under these headings see the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.
Sanitary Condition of Schools	...	...	...	...
Sanitary Inspection of Area	...	...	...	...
Shops and Offices	...	...	...	...
Camping Sites	...	...	...	...
Eradication of Bed-bugs	...	...	...	...
Inspections under Factory Act, 1937	

HOUSING.

A search for hitherto unknown occupied houses unfit for human habitation was made during the year, but apart from this the amount of time spent on dealing with housing complaints has continued to prevent thorough house-to-house inspection as required by Housing Regulations.

By the end of the year the Rural Housing Survey, begun in 1945, had come almost to a standstill at 647 houses recorded.

Up to date figures on statutory overcrowding are unavailable.

It must be noted that the above are shortcomings of recordings more than inspection. All who have to deal with housing have an intimate knowledge of the conditions in their district. Unfortunately, the need for more houses continues to be of the utmost urgency.

The work done by the Council's Sanitary Inspectors to obtain the repair and improvement of existing property is given below in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

The number of houses completed by the Council in 1949 was 122, and by private enterprise 51.

The Housing Welfare Officer has kindly submitted the following report:—

“During the twelve months ending March, 1950, 1,363 applicants were registered for re-housing. At the end of that year there was an effective waiting list of 1,176, 165 families having been re-housed by the Council and 22 applications cancelled.

The figures for each area are appended below, the figures for April 1948 to March 1949 being shown in brackets:—

	FAMILIES RE-HOUSED SINCE MARCH, 1949.		TRANSFERS OF EXISTING TENANTS.	
Ash	7	(3)	—	(2)
Darenth	22	(7)	4	(8)
Eynsford	3	(8)	1	(—)
Crockenhill	—	(12)	1	(2)
Farningham	3	(9)	3	(5)
Fawkham	—	(5)	—	(—)
Hartley	3	(9)	—	(—)
West Kingsdown	1	(6)	—	(2)
Longfield	4	(15)	—	(2)
Lullingstone	—	(—)	—	(—)
Ridley	—	(—)	—	(—)
Horton Kirby	13	(5)	5	(6)
South Darenth	5	(6)	2	(5)
Betsham	2	(6)	—	(1)
Southfleet	7	(8)	3	(1)
Bean	2	(1)	3	(—)
Stone	42	(20)	23	(15)
Hawley	—	(3)	—	(—)
Hextable	5	(2)	2	(—)
Sutton-at-Hone	1	(2)	1	(—)
Swanley	28	(26)	16	(17)
Wilmington	8	(11)	4	(3)
Outside Rural District	9	(4)	1	(—)
	165	(168)	69	(69)

It will be noted from the above that the Council have made use of the transfer of Council tenants to alternative accommodation, thus leaving pre-1939 houses available to families whose incomes and standards may not always be commensurate with the rents and facilities of the new houses.

The Council have pursued their policy of building specially designed bungalows for the aged community, the resultant happiness and comfort of the tenants proving the success of this scheme. Every effort is made by the Housing Welfare Staff to keep in close contact with these elderly people to give any assistance which may be required.

Several elderly couples have found the security of a home in such a bungalow after retirement from the employment which afforded them their accommodation. One elderly couple was found to be living in a corrugated iron hut at the rear of a dwelling house, although sleeping in the latter; they were without adequate means of heating and conditions were appalling. This old couple are now happily settled in an aged persons bungalow, and for the first time for several years enjoying their own fireside.

Many families have been evicted from their homes during the past 12 months, and wherever possible the Council have endeavoured to afford temporary accommodation.

Private landlords still continue to afford the Council a great degree of co-operation by accepting tenants nominated from the Council's waiting list when existing tenants are provided with Council houses more suitable to their needs.

An ever increasing effort is being made by the Housing Selection Committees to re-house families living in houses unfit for human habitation, but in view of the large proportion of applicants who are still without their own unit of accommodation, this clearance must necessarily proceed comparatively slowly.

During the past year the welfare visiting amongst the Council's tenants has continued, especial attention being paid to the 'problem families.'

The Council's Well Kept Gardens Competition has again proved a most interesting feature of the year, the tenants of the post-war houses showing great enthusiasm."

HEALTH EDUCATION.

Apart from a talk to a youth club nothing has been done to keep the public informed on matters concerning their health.

SECTION 47, NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT.

Approval was obtained from the Committee for an application to the Court for the removal to hospital of an aged and infirm lady living alone in insanitary conditions and not receiving proper care and attention. Before the report of the Committee was able to be put before the Council, however, the cottage in which this lady was living caught fire. The lady was then cared for by her neighbours and further action under Section 47 had to be withheld as she was then receiving sufficient care and attention and therefore outside the scope of the Act. Two months later it became necessary to remove the lady to hospital under the Lunacy Act, 1890.

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1949.

DISEASES.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.	CASES ADMITTED TO HOSPITALS.	TOTAL DEATHS.
Smallpox	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	23*	14	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Enteric Fever	0	0	0
Dysentery	2*	0	0
Pneumonia	10*	1	9
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	0
Erysipelas	6	3	0
Poliomyelitis	6	6	1
Polio-encephalitis	1	1	0
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	81*	4	1
Measles	234*	5	1
Scabies	4	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	0
TOTALS	368	35	12

* 5 pneumonia, 1 scarlet fever, 4 whooping cough, 2 dysentery, 5 measles occurred at Institutions and Hospitals and were either isolated there or sent to Isolation Hospitals outside this area.

Age Groups.

		Under												Total	
		1 yr.	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65+		
Scarlet Fever	0	0	2	2	1	15	3	0	0	0	0	0	23
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dysentery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
Pneumonia	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	5	10
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Erysipelas	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	2	6
Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	6
Polio-encephalitis	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	4	10	18	11	7	29	0	0	0	1	0	1	81
Measles	5	16	37	26	25	106	13	1	4	1	0	0	234
Scabies	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	4
TOTALS	10	27	57	40	34	152	19	2	9	7	2	9	368

Acute Poliomyelitis.

The homes of the cases of poliomyelitis were in the part of the district in communication with the Thameside urban areas. Their addresses were:—

Hawley Road, Wilmington. Two cases in separate families.
 Sackville Road, Wilmington.
 Birchwood Road, Wilmington.
 Hedge Place Road, Stone.
 Longfield Road, Ash.
 Church Road, Hartley.

This distribution is in contrast with the five cases at Swanley which occurred in the 1947 epidemic.

Pneumonia.

It will be seen that there were 10 notifications of pneumonia and 9 deaths, which indicates poor notification.

Food Poisoning.

Three motor coach drivers after eating cockles at Southend suffered from severe vomiting and diarrhoea on arrival home. They themselves notified their symptoms to the police and the information came thence to this office. By the time stool specimens were taken however they had recovered and no food poisoning organism was found.

Tuberculosis.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1 ...	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1—5 ...	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
5—10 ...	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
10—15 ...	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
15—20 ...	6	1	0	1	0	1	0	0
20—25 ...	4	3	0	0	0	1	0	0
25—35 ...	6	4	1	0	1	0	0	0
35—45 ...	4	2	0	1	1	1	0	0
45—55 ...	4	0	0	0	2	2	0	0
55—65 ...	3	0	0	1	1	1	0	0
65 and upwards ...	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
TOTALS ...	29	13	2	3	6	6	0	0

CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The County Medical Officer of Health has kindly supplied the following returns: —

Immunisation against Diphtheria and Vaccination against Smallpox, 1949.

The following is a return of (A) the number of children resident in the Rural District of Dartford who were immunised against diphtheria and (B) the number of persons who were vaccinated against smallpox, during the year ended 31st December, 1949: —

(A) Diphtheria Immunisation.

YEAR OF BIRTH.	PRIMARY INOCULATIONS.	REINFORCING INOCULATIONS.	YEAR OF BIRTH.	PRIMARY INOCULATIONS.	REINFORCING INOCULATIONS.
1949 ...	41	—	Total b/fd.	466	262
1948 ...	275	—	1941 ...	9	64
1947 ...	43	—	1940 ...	22	82
1946 ...	14	1	1939 ...	20	84
1945 ...	9	11	1938 ...	13	67
1944 ...	27	62	1937 ...	—	—
1943 ...	34	102	1936 ...	—	3
1942 ...	23	86	1935 ...	—	3
Total c/fd.	466	262	TOTAL ...	530	565

(B) Vaccination.

AGE AT 31ST DEC., 1949	Under 1	1 to 4	5 to 14	15 or over	TOTAL
Number Vaccinated ...	135	84	5	22	246
Number Re-Vaccinated ...	—	2	7	34	43

The following is a return of the number of children resident in the Rural District of Dartford under the age of 15 years on 31st December, 1949, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (*i.e.*, at any time since 1st January, 1935): —

YEAR OF BIRTH.	YEAR OF BIRTH.
1935	Total b/fd. ...
1936	1943
1937	1944
1938	1945
1939	1946
1940	1947
1941	1948
1942	1949
Total c/fd. ...	TOTAL

Treatment of Scabies and Headlice.

During the year 9 persons were treated for scabies at the cleansing station. There were no treatments for headlice. There is a decrease of 39 scabies and 11 headlice treatments compared with last year's figures.

Venereal Disease.

The following figures of new cases attending during 1949 have kindly been supplied by the special clinic: —

Syphilis	4
Gonorrhœa	3
Other conditions	25
	32

Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present herewith my report for the year 1949.

I am,

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient servant,

F. SUTCH,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Refuse Collection.

A weekly collection of house refuse was maintained with mechanical tipping vehicles. During the year a new wing was erected to the garage accommodation at Button Street Depot to house new vehicles. The men employed in refuse collection and cesspool emptying were provided with new denim overalls, and "Farmer" type mackintoshes ordered for issue in the new year.

It became necessary to revise the refuse collection rounds, due to the erection of Council houses. Every 50 houses erected adds approximately one hour to collecting time; adjustments have been made to meet this demand and from the very few complaints received I am led to believe the majority of the public are satisfied with the service rendered.

The Council have experienced little difficulty in obtaining replacement of defective dustbins.

Refuse Disposal.

The scheme of reclaiming land at Longfield gravel pit sustained a setback when in the first week of July it was discovered the refuse had been set afire at several points.

By the use of a mechanical excavator and bulldozer the fire was ultimately extinguished, the site covered with soil and consolidated by use of the bulldozer with scraper attachment.

Salvage.

Markets have fluctuated during the year, particularly in regard to paper. The merchants have refused "strawboard," and at one time only required two tons of clean paper per week.

The situation has improved slightly, the merchants having agreed to take all clean paper at £5 per ton, they undertaking to collect from Darenth Wood Depot. Bottles and jars have also been a problem; these have to be sorted as only certain types are required by the merchants.

The following is a summary of collections for 1949:—

- 144½ tons of Salvage disposed of amounting to £897 13s. 3d.
- 263 tons of kitchen waste collected by local pig breeders.
- 79½ tons of salvage collected by voluntary bodies.
- 255½ tons of screened ashes removed by brickmakers, who provide all labour and transport without cost to the Council.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

	No. IN DISTRICT.	No. OF VISITS IN 1949.	No. OF FAULTS AND DEFECTS FOUND.	No. OF FAULTS AND DEFECTS REMEDIED.
Bakehouses	14	36	3	3
Dairies and Cowsheds	57	235	17	17
Slaughterhouses (Licensed)	12	42	—	—
Other food preparing places which are, as such, subject to inspection	13	247	6	6
Offensive trades	—	—	—	—
Common Lodging Houses	—	—	—	—
Houses Let in Lodgings	—	—	—	—
Factories	54	83	14	14
Workshops	7	26	1	1
Work Places (other than out-workers' homes)	—	—	—	—
Ice Cream Regulations, 1947	—	73	1	1
Shops Act, 1934	251	192	3	3
Water Act, 1945	—	79	5	5

HOUSING REPAIRS.

(a) Housing Act, 1936.

Statutory Notices served	33
Statutory Notices complied with	24
Works carried out by Local Authority by default owners	7
Informal Notices served	114
Informal Notices complied with	99
Works in progress at end of year	15
Unfit houses demolished	3
Unfit houses still occupied where Demolition Orders have been served	5
Overcrowding abated	2
Number of houses surveyed and recorded	27

(b) Public Health Act, 1936.

Statutory Notices served	34
Statutory Notices complied with	23
Informal Notices served	597
Informal Notices complied with	580
Works in progress at end of year	17

(c) Summary of Inspections.

Housing Act, 1936	1,923
Public Health Act, 1936	3,997
Miscellaneous inspections to bakehouses, factories, workshops, dairies, cowsheds, slaughterhouses, food preparing premises, Shops Act, Water Act, Ice Cream Premises	1,119
Total Inspections	<u>7,039</u>

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

Summary of Defects remedied during 1949.

Connection to new sewer	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
New cesspool drainage and privy pits abolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Cesspools re-built	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cesspools repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cesspools abolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Sanitary Accommodation:							
(i) Insufficient	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
(ii) Defective	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Drainage:							
(i) Re-constructed	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
(ii) Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
(iii) Cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Bathrooms provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
New sinks provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Cooking ranges, stoves, coppers and boilers renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Waste water preventors renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Waste pipes to sinks, lavatory basins and baths renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Gutters and rainwater pipes renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Defective water supplies remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Yard paving provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	71
Dampness to walls abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Floors renewed or repaired (chiefly dry rot)	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Walls and ceilings repaired and cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	211
Defective lighting and ventilation remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	91
New doors provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
New handrails provided to staircases	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Chimney stacks re-built	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
New refuse receptacles provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	62
Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Defects regarding keeping animals remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Defects remedied regarding Hop Pickers' Camps	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Defects remedied regarding tents, vans, sheds and gypsy camps	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Smoke emission abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Premises disinfected after infectious disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	25

ERADICATION OF BUGS, Etc.

The following is a summary of work carried out during the year by Sanitary Inspectors in destroying pests and vermin: —

Number of premises disinfested of bed bugs	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Council houses disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Private dwellings disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Private dwellings treated for woodworm	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Private dwellings treated for swarms of flies	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Private dwellings treated for wasp nests	...	...	...	...	...	...	25

“Zaldecide” containing D.D.T. is used for disinfestation with satisfactory results. Walls are stripped of paper, skirting boards, mouldings, etc., and all surfaces sprayed.

Property owners are advised to repair all holes and cracks in wall and ceiling plaster and distemper walls in preference to paper decoration.

Follow up visits are made and instructions given to occupiers with a view to preventing re-infestation.

RODENT CONTROL.

Two major infestations at factory premises were notified and dealt with by the Council's Rodent & Pest Operator.

The principle of surveying adjoining properties to those mentioned in complaint has been maintained with satisfactory results. Sewers were tested each quarter and no evidence of rats found.

Co-operation is still maintained with adjoining Authorities in joint survey work of contiguous areas.

Summary of Work for Year.

	ESTIMATED KILL.
Dartford R.D.C. Sewers—256 manholes tested each Quarter ...	Nil.
Darenth Vailey Main Sewers—12 manholes tested each Quarter ...	Nil.
29 Business premises treated for rats	413
168 Private dwellings treated for rats	1,233
4 Private dwellings treated for mice	16
Complaints received, 68; Discovered by survey 129.	

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

There are 35 Registered dairy farms in the Rural District, 12 of which produce "Tuberculin" Tested Milk and 4 produce "Accredited" Milk.

The administration of all these dairy farms was taken over by The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries on the 1st October, 1949.

There are 17 distributors of milk registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 and 8 premises registered as dairies other than dairy farms.

Since the commencement of the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949 and the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised) Milk Regulations 1949, the following licences have been issued:—

DISTRIBUTOR.	DEALERS' LICENCES.				SUPPLEMENTARY LICENCES.		
	T.T.	PAST.	ACC.	STER.	T.T.	PAST.	STER.
H. S. Clarke, The Parade, Hartley	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Messrs. Evans & Payne, Station Road Dairy, Longfield	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Mrs. E. Hills, Hook Green Dairy, Wilmington	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
H. W. Hollands, Green Farm, Fawkham ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Messrs. Houlding Bros., Speedgate Farm, Fawkham	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Miss N. Parsons, Heathside Farm, Wilmington	1	1	1	1	—	—	—
A. E. Sheffield, Swyres Farm Dairy, Darenth	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Express Dairy Co., Tavistock Place, London	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
E. Widdows & Son, Homefield House, Sutton-at-Hone	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
S. H. Barnden, 7 Elm Road, Stone	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
The Nestle Co., Ltd., Hayes, Middlesex ...	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
S. Chapman & Son, The Dairy, Main Road, West Kingsdown	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
S. S. Cockburn, Hever Stores, West Kingsdown	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
L. Griggs, Meadowview, Crockenhil	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Surrey Milk Co., Ltd., 55 Sleaford Street, London	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
United Dairies, Ltd., Western Avenue, Acton	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
London Wholesale Dairies, Wood Lane, Shepherds Bush	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
Dartford Industrial Co-operative Society, Ltd., Dartford	—	6	—	—	1	1	—
TOTALS	10	17	1	6	3	3	1

Informal Action taken by Inspector.

The rebuilding of one cowshed and dairy was commenced before the 1st October, 1949.

Repairs to cowsheds and dairies were completed to 6 premises.

Cleansing completed to 5 cowsheds and 6 dairies.

Total number of visits made to cowsheds and dairies 312.

Milk Sampling.

	NO. OF SAMPLES TAKEN.			NO. OF SAMPLES FOUND UNSATISFACTORY.
"Tuberculin Tested"	15	1
"Accredited"	56	6
"Pasteurised"	4	0
Non Designated	2	0

Ice Cream.

Applications for registration for the sale of ice cream under Section 14, Food and Drugs Act 1938, were received from 20 persons during the year. This brings the total number of persons registered to 63 to sell ice cream.

8 persons are registered to manufacture ice cream.

73 visits were made by the Inspectors during the year and 47 samples of ice cream were submitted to the County Laboratory.

Samples submitted to the County Laboratory were graded as follows:—

Grade I	12
„ II	17
„ III	2
„ IV	16

Meat and Other Foods.

Summary of animals killed and carcasses and offal inspected in private slaughter-houses:—

PARTICULARS.	COWS.	CALVES.	SHEEP AND LAMBS.	PIGS.	GOATS.
Number Killed	4	12	44	184	2
Number Inspected	4	12	44	184	2
(i) All Diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	2	1	—
Percentage of Number Inspected with Diseases other than Tuberculosis	Nil.	Nil.	4.5 %	0.6 %	Nil.
(ii) Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	4	—
Percentage of Number Inspected	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	2.2 %	Nil.

The following items were surrendered from slaughterhouses:—

- 104 lbs. Pork—emergency slaughter, extensive bruising.
- 17 lbs. Pigs' Liver affected with tuberculosis.
- 82½ lbs. Beef—extensive bruising.
 - 1 Cow Liver affected with tuberculosis.
 - 1 Cow Pluck affected with tuberculosis.
- 10 lbs. Cow Mesenteric Fat affected with tuberculosis.
 - 1 Cow Liver affected with angiomata.
- 10 lbs. Cow Liver affected with hydatid cysts.
- 1 Sheep's Liver affected with cirrhosis.

The following items were surrendered from shops and canteens:—

- | | | |
|----------|-----|---|
| MEAT | ... | 1cwt. 1qr. 10lbs. English Beef affected with bone taint.
7 Ox Hearts, 6 Ox Heads, 2 Ox Livers, 8 Ox Spleens, 8 Ox Tails,
3 Ox Lungs, 11 Ox Skirts, 12 Sheeps' Plucks, 1 Sheep's
Heart, 12 Sheeps' Heads, 20 Rabbits—all decomposed. |
| BACON | ... | 42½lbs. |
| CHEESE | ... | 15½lbs. |
| FISH | ... | 15 stone Fresh Herrings.
10 stone Fresh Haddocks.
7 stone 10½ lbs. Skate.
5 stone Cod Fillet.
3 stone Cat Fish.
3 stone Dog Fish.
3 stone Smoked Haddocks. |
| MILK | ... | 1 cwt. Dried Milk Powder.
25 x 16oz. tins Evaporated Milk.
12 tins "Ideal" Milk.
4 tins "Frisian Girl" Sweetened Milk.
3 tins "Springtime" Full Cream Milk.
2 x 14oz. tins Condensed Milk.
2 x 5oz. tins Dried Milk. |
| SUNDRIES | ... | 22 x 10oz. bottles of Sweet Pickles.
48 x 16oz. tins Chocolate Spread.
1 tin Grapefruit Marmalade.
1 tin Sardines.
1 tin Baked Beans.
1 tin Mixed Vegetables.
2 tins Carrots.
14 x 1lb. 13ozs. tins Peas.
1 tin Tomato Soup.
1 tin Vegetable Soup.
5 tins Ulster Broth.
1 x 1lb. 13oz. tin Pork Brawn.
1 x 11½oz. tin Pork Luncheon Meat.
36 x 8oz. packets of Suet.
54lbs. Beef Sausages.
12 Meat Pies. |

Total number of visits made to shops and food preparing premises—247.

Informal Action by Inspectors :

- 6 Intimation Notices served. 6 complied with.
- 1 Cafe—lavatory accommodation provided for both sexes.
- 1 Cafe—kitchen enlarged and old part cleansed.
- 1 Cafe—lavatory accommodation re-sited.
- 1 Cafe—ventilation made satisfactory.
- 1 Cafe—lavatory accommodation cleansed.
- 1 Cafe—kitchen walls, floors and ceilings cleansed.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

The following details of samples taken by the County Sampling Officers within the Rural area during the year 1949 have been kindly furnished by Mr. S. Strugnell, Chief Inspector, Weights and Measures Department of the Kent County Council:—

ARTICLE.	No. OF SAMPLES.	ARTICLE.	No. OF SAMPLES.
Agarol Compound ...	1	Brought forward ...	39
Arrowroot ...	2	Jam, Plum ...	1
Bisurated Magnesia Tablets	1	Jam, Strawberry ...	1
Blanc Mange Powder ...	1	Kaola ...	1
Boracic Acid ...	1	Milk ...	56
Butter ...	1	Mince Meat ...	1
Cake Flour Mixture ...	1	Oatmeal, Medium ...	2
Cheese ...	3	Opas Powder ...	1
Chemical Food, B.P. ...	1	Orange Fruit Cup ...	1
Chest and Lung Balsam ...	1	Orange Squash ...	2
Children's Orange Squash ...	1	Pastry Mix ...	1
Children's Tonic ...	1	Pepper, White ...	1
Choc Ice ...	1	Quinine, Ammoniated Tinc- ture of ...	1
Christmas Pudding ...	1	Rich Cake ...	1
Cooking Fat ...	1	Rum ...	2
Cotton Wool ...	1	Saccharin Tablets ...	1
Cupkaff ...	1	Salad Cream ...	2
Curry Powder ...	1	Spaghetti and Sausages in Tomato Soup ...	1
Dessert Powder ...	1	Swiss Roll ...	1
Drinking Chocolate ...	1	Tomato Ketchup ...	2
Famel Brand Syrup ...	1	Tomato Purée ...	1
Fish Paste ...	1	Tomato Soup ...	1
Flour, Plain ...	2	Vanilla Ice Cream—Rasp- berry Flavour ...	1
Flour, Self-Raising ...	3	Vinegar, Malt ...	2
Fru-Bix ...	1	Whisky ..	3
Gin ...	1		
Ice Cream ...	5		
Invalid Barley Flour ...	1		
Jam, Apricot ...	1		
Carried forward ...	39	TOTAL ...	126

All the above samples were reported as "Genuine" with the exception of the following:—

MILK	3.3% deficient in fat.	} All of these samples were taken from the same supplier, and investigation showed that the fat deficiencies were probably due to inefficient mixing of the milk of the herd. The producer was advised, and further samples will be taken.
MILK	18.3% deficient in fat.	
MILK	3.3% deficient in fat.	
MILK	15% deficient in fat.	
MILK	3.3% deficient in fat.	
CHANNEL ISLANDS MILK	12.5% deficient in fat.	} A further sample was taken and was genuine. Particulars were forwarded to the Ministry of Food as per their Circular No. M.F. 8/48.
MILK	6.6% extraneous water.	} Legal proceedings were taken. The case was dismissed on payment of £3 11s. 0d. costs by the Defendant.
ORANGE SQUASH	Total solids 2.14%. Citric Acid 0.18%. Sugar 1.71%. Saccharin 0.01%. This is not a concentrated soft drink and should not be called "squash." Inferior.	} On investigation this soft drink was considered to comply with the codes of practice for "ready to drink" beverages as the word "sparkling" had been included in the label.
MINCEMEAT ...	Fat 4.3%. Acetic Acid 0.77%. Soluble solids 63.9%. Slight deficiency in soluble solids. Inferior	} Further sample to be obtained.
SWISS ROLL ...	Hydrocarbon Oil 0.25%. Inferior.	} Further sample to be obtained.
KAOLA	Benzoic Acid 130. p.p.m. Inferior.	} Further sample to be obtained.

SHOPS ACTS, 1934-1936.

There are 251 shops in the Rural area; with the exception of one wet fish shop the shops have properly glazed shop fronts.

Other than the café premises already recorded, three Informal Notices were served and complied with to cleanse premises.

No case of excessive hours worked by juveniles has been noted or reported during the year.

Total number of visits made under Shop Acts—192.

CAMPING SITES.

Number of Camping Sites in use during 1949	17
Number of Camping Sites in use for which licences have been granted by Local Authority under Section 269, Public Health Act, 1936	17
Number of vans removed where licences were not granted	19
Estimated number of persons resident in licensed camps during the Summer of 1949	180

Hop Pickers' Camps.

There is only one camp now in use at Maplescombe Farm, West Kingsdown. There were no cases of sickness at the camp during the 1949 season.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937-1948. INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.

1. INSPECTIONS UNDER PART I, FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

PREMISES.	NO. ON REGISTER.	NO. OF INSPECTIONS.	NO. OF WRITTEN NOTICES.	OCCUPIERS PROSECUTED.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	54	83	13	Nil.
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities	7	24	1	Nil.
TOTAL	61	107	14	Nil.
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities (excluding Outworkers' Premises)	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

NO. OF CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

PARTICULARS.	FOUND.	REMEDIED.	REFERRED TO H.M. INSPECTOR.	REFERRED BY H.M. INSPECTOR.	NO. OF PROSECUTIONS.
Want of Cleanliness (S.1) ...	6	6	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Overcrowding (S.2)	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4) ...	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6)	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	4	4	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
(c) Not Separate for Sexes ...	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Defective Roofs	1	1	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Defective Drains	2	2	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
TOTAL	14	14	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

Outworkers.

There are 55 persons registered as Outworkers; 7 making wearing apparel, 47 making boxes (made wholly or partly of paper) and 1 making lampshades, in their own homes. Conditions are satisfactory.

APPENDIX TO REPORT OF M.O.H.

(i) Concerning our opportunity of July 5th, 1948.

"It is obvious that the formation of just opinions on the question how diseases spread may depend less on personal ability than on the opportunities for its determination which may fall to the lot of the observer. It is equally obvious that where the question at issue is that of the propagation of disease by human intercourse, rural districts, where the population is thin, and the lines of intercourse are few and always easily traced, offer opportunities for its settlement which are not to be met with in the crowded haunts of large towns."

Budd, W., Typhoid Fever, 1873.

"Register of Sickness. It appears to the Committee in the highest degree desirable that a Register of Sickness, not confined to infectious diseases, should be established and maintained. For this purpose the official returns of Poor Law Medical Officers could, with very little trouble and expense, be modified so as to secure a record of all diseases treated by them. And, further, it ought not to be difficult to procure the co-operation of hospitals and other charitable institutions throughout the country, so as to utilise for the same purpose the record of sickness kept by such institutions."

Recommendation 2 of Report on
Physical Deterioration, 1904.

"The Medical Officer of Health should endeavour to acquire an accurate knowledge of the influences, social environment and industrial, which may operate prejudicially to health in the area. . . . all morbid conditions contributing to a high sickness rate or mortality in the area . . . should be studied with a view to their prevention or control."

Ministry of Health Memorandum, 1925.

"The transfer of some of his (the district Medical Officer of Health) functions under the (N.H.S.) Act should leave him with wider opportunities for epidemiological studies and afford him more time for the control of communicable diseases, but in some areas this transfer of functions has also resulted in a reduction of staff and the Medical Officer of Health has not been able to increase his activities in this field of preventive medicine, in which after all lies his first duty, . . ."

The Report of the Ministry of Health for 1948.

Dartford Rural District was one of the many Local Authorities which shelved the opportunity for study of health and disease afforded by the transfer of functions under the National Health Service Act. No advice to do otherwise was given to the Public Health Committee because the time did not seem ripe so to do. Much of the raw material for such study consists of statistics which we can only hope to obtain second-hand from hospitals, general practitioners, the Local Health Authority and the Ministry of National Insurance. It is not reasonable to trouble these bodies while they are settling down after the impact of the Act; a request for data would be viewed with impatience.

We require academic collaboration. We have little common ground of interest with the general practitioners. Section 28 of the Act may transfer some preventive scope to the County. Sickness benefit claims are analysed only on a County basis.

When these difficulties and uncertainties are settled the Committee can be asked to expand their interests, increase their staff and press general practitioners to become co-opted members.

We might then inquire into: the precise effect on health of houses unfit for human habitation; whether priority for both children and tuberculosis on housing estates was spreading or limiting the disease; the prevalence of parasitism in the human bowel; whether "cement" dust was harmful or beneficial to health; the state of health of non-sick housewives.

When we have thus broadened the scope of our interests the Annual Report will be more of an account of the health of the community than of routine day to day work as it is now. In 1949 the public interest in disease was such that the Annual Report of the Dartford Group of Hospitals sold at one shilling a copy. If the opportunity given us by the Act is exploited we might conceivably stimulate a like interest in health.

(ii) Health Education.

Some decentralisation of responsibility for health to the individual himself is an accepted necessity, but nevertheless the Public Health Committee was not asked to sanction any health education during 1949. This was because we had not found an effective approach to the mind of the public and because the Local Health Authority was also given the responsibility for this work by the National Health Service Act.

Meanwhile—A minority of persons take pain as the guide for dental treatment and hunger as the guide for nutrition. Bread, like Man, is judged by whiteness and milk, though pasteurised, by its cream-line. The sugar habit is allowed to speed the decay of teeth while orchard apples rot. We provide pedestal w.c. pans to Council houses while pregnant mothers are advised to make amends with squatting exercises. Lousy heads are found in bathroomed houses. Fathers believe in immunisation against diphtheria but not vaccination against smallpox. Infant circumcision is done when asked for by neither Faith nor physician. Accessable cancer is feared as much as that which is inaccessible.

(iii) Notification of Pneumonia.

Pneumonia is notifiable as "acute primary pneumonia" which includes lobar pneumonia and primary broncho-pneumonia. Secondary pneumonias that follow other disorders are not notifiable but an exception is made for pneumonia secondary to influenza, which is notifiable as "acute influenzal pneumonia." Deaths from the latter are attributed to influenza and there are therefore more types of pneumonia notifiable than there are recordable as deaths. No death is attributed to pneumonia unless it is the primary underlying cause.

In 1949 ten cases of pneumonia were notified and six pneumonia deaths occurred in this district (the remaining deaths occurred in hospitals outside the district). The figures for England and Wales show a similar ratio of notifications to deaths. Statistically, therefore, pneumonia is a disease with high fatality.

The figures however exaggerate the truth as notification of the disease is grossly inadequate. Out of the above six deaths only one was notified in life. In England and Wales only about a quarter of pneumonias in adults are notified (Stocks, 1949). There are practitioners who consider primary broncho-pneumonia not to be included in the term "acute primary pneumonia," and therefore not notifiable.

Pneumonia was first made notifiable in 1919 and one of the original purposes was to ensure that the patient received medical and nursing attention; modern drugs and the National Health Service Act have now supplied these requirements in other ways.

Post-war conditions, however, emphasise the need to know the distribution of the disease. Primary broncho-pneumonia is predisposed to by unhealthy living conditions which include unfit and overcrowded housing, and, with reliable notification, the precise relation between the disease and its environment could be ascertained for this district. Such statistical guidance would help us in the risky decisions we have to make regarding whether unfit houses require demolition or whether the difficulties of the times justify their being patched up to keep out the wind and the rain.

The legislation regarding the notification of pneumonia, like that of other diseases, seems due for revision.

Reference.—Percy Stocks. "Sickness in the Population of England and Wales in 1944—1947." H.M.S.O. 1949.

(iv) Statement of Cost of the Public Health Department supplied by the Council's Chief Financial Officer. Year ended 31st March, 1950.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Salaries of Medical Officer of Health, Sanitary Inspectors and Clerk				3,163	14	4
Council's Superannuation Contributions				356	0	4
Travelling Expenses (cost of running cars)				429	6	9½
Fidelity Insurance				1	0	0
Heating, Lighting and Cleaning Offices and Telephone Charges				150	0	0
Stationery, etc.				150	0	0
				<u>4,250</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>5½</u>
Grant receivable from County Council:						
50% of Sanitary Officers' Salaries	910	0	0			
Share of Medical Officer of Health's Salary and Travelling Expenses (8/11ths) recoverable from County Council	985	6	2			
				<u>1,895</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>2</u>
NET COST OF DEPARTMENT TO RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL				<u>£2,354</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>3½</u>